

### GETTING VALUE OUT OF CATS AND DOGS

There are estimated to be 100,000 dogs and a like number of cats in New Mexico, a cat and a dog to each four people. Probably 50,000 of the dogs have a value as watch dogs of one sort or another. The other 50,000 have practically no economic value. Of the cats the number that pay for their keep is very small, so we may regard them as almost 100,000 sources of waste. Cats that are fed will hunt very little; cats that are not fed, as a rule, kill more beneficial birds than injurious rodents; so they are worse than waste. They are an actual detriment. Cats are worse destroyers of birds than are hawks. But and mouse control about granaries and mills should be based on prevention of the entrance of the rodents. Actual killing of such rodents may usually be done more efficiently and with less final expense by means other than employment of cats. However, cats about such places come more closely than any others to earning a living.

Of the 50,000 worthless dogs some earn their keep. They fall into three classes: those overfed and pampered; those whose starved skin-and-bone appearance testify to their inability to get their own living; and those that prey on domestic animals, sheep especially, and all their stomachs at an even greater loss to the farmer.

Another very vital reason for reducing the number of these animals and restricting their activities is that they are carriers of disease of humans and of domestic animals.

In times of peace, perhaps, but not now, can we afford to feed useless animals. For every ounce of food fit for humans given to useless animals, just twice that is taken from our food supply.

The cost to the state per year for feeding these 150,000 worthless animals is great—even though we think the amount of food supplied them

is far below that supplied in other sections of the country. Our great need now is to learn where to save on the things that we used to consider worthless. Our government tells us daily where great quantities of food may be saved from waste. We used to think the dog and the cat should have the meat scraps, bones, etc., from the table. We are told now how to utilize almost every bit of these so-called "scraps."

It is difficult to estimate in dollars and cents the actual amount of such waste of food given to these animals. Some estimates give five cents a day for cats and ten cents a day for dogs. That is likely too high for our animals, on an average. Instead of trying to place a dollar and cents estimate on this waste, let us do this: Every time we feed a dog or a cat, let us figure what that food is actually worth, according to war-necessity standards, and let us figure whether that animal can actually prove it is paying for that food. If it cannot, we have no right to feed it. By all means, let us not forget to do this. We have the habit.

Killing animals proven worthless, saves the loss. Their hides are worth something. Their carcasses may be used for fertilizer or poultry food and great good be gotten out of them in this way. By the destruction of the worthless cats many thousands of beneficial birds may be saved and their help in the matter of insect control will be another valuable asset to the farmer.

Finally, reducing the number of marauding dogs will make safe the raising of the much needed small flocks of sheep on the farms of our state. There is a crying need for increased wool production. On nearly every farm feed of various kinds is wasted sufficient to keep a small flock of sheep. For sheep out forage that other animals refuse, coarse hay, grazing leavings, weeds, etc. They are most valuable in the control of weeds and, incidentally, of insects on the farm. The worthless roaming dogs that get together

### NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office, Las Cruces, N. M., April 10, 1918.

Notice is hereby given that Manue McParland, (wife) for herself and other heirs of Henry A. McKinney, deceased, of Hatch, N. M., who, on Dec. 1st, 1912, made homestead entry No. 00041, for W<sup>1/2</sup>SW<sup>1/4</sup> W<sup>1/2</sup> SW<sup>1/4</sup>, section 1, township 33 S. R. 18 W. N. M. P. Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final five-year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before George Edwards, U. S. Commissioner, at Hatch, N. M., on the 24th day of June, 1918.

Claimant names as witnesses: Monte Adams, Milton Jensen, Don Phillips, and Ray Crawford, all of Hatch, N. M.

JOHN L. BURNSIDE  
4-10-5-17 Register

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In hands at night—curs and peddled aristocrats, country bred and town bred together—forget all civilized teachings if they encounter a flock of helpless sheep. The result is too often a disastrous loss to the farmer with no recourse, for he does not know what dogs did the work and there is no dog-license indemnity for his loss. Even a dog-license indemnity is wrong economics—to foster a waste of certain waste in those worthless dogs, and then let it to pay for waste of still other kinds. Rather abolish these "hounds within our gates," and make the state "safe for sheep."

Let us figure for ourselves the enormous waste per year from this source and turn these worthless animals into fertilizer, poultry, sheep and wool—let us avoid this waste and help meet this crisis facing civilization by providing this easily won food and more wool. Swat the worthless dogs and cats and help out the farmer. —D. E. Merrill, Biologist.

### PROTECT THE SONG-BIRDS

Insects annually destroy \$400,000,000 worth of crops in this country. Half of this, or over \$200,000,000 damage, is done to cereals alone—on which we depend this year to win the war.

The codling moth and apple pests cost the farmers annually \$20,000,000. The chicken bug and boll weevil rob us yearly of \$40,000,000. Tree insects cost \$100,000,000 a year.

Every song-bird destroyed helps these expensive pests to help the flies by decreasing American food resources. Save the song-birds.

The fuel administration has issued a warning against the use of domestic sizes of hard coal by industrial plants.

Representatives of the musical-instrument industry have agreed to a curtailment of their output to 70 per cent of normal during April and May.

A total of 100,000 women are now on the pay roll of the President-Elect's Railway, according to a statement in the *Leipziger Illustrierte Zeitung*.

In Norway, where no gasoline has been obtainable for many months and automobiles have practically ceased running, experiments are being made to operate motor cars with acetylene gas.

The total amount of foodstuffs shipped during March from the United States and Canada to the Allies, according to the Food Administration, was about 1,100,000 tons, compared with 750,000 tons in February.

Red Cross workers at line of communication canteens in France accompany American soldiers on shopping trips, to see if they receive correct change and otherwise advise them in their encounters with French shopkeepers.



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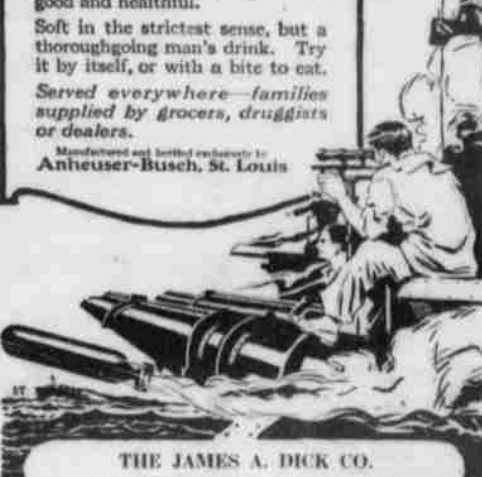
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